

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 11 May 2012

Top Stories

- Canadian police said May 9 they broke up an international fraud ring involving dozens of people that drained \$100 million from the accounts of unsuspecting bank card holders. –
 Agence France-Presse (See item <u>15</u>)
- A massive break in a Flint, Michigan water main leaked millions of gallons of water for more than a year, costing the city more than \$800,000. The leak, theft, and use of water to battle fires have caused water and sewer rates to spike. *MLive.com* (See item 26)
- Medicare paid \$5.6 billion to 2,600 pharmacies with questionable billings in 1 year, according to a government report. Associated Press (See item 28)
- The FBI took over the investigation into cases of white powder being mailed to 9 locations in north Texas, including 7 preschools and a church. *KTVT 11 Fort Worth* (See item <u>52</u>)
- State and federal land managers imposed bans on open fires and other activities across much of southeastern Arizona because of high fire danger that has already resulted in numerous wildfires. *Associated Press* (See item 54)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: LOW, <u>Cyber</u>: LOW Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]

1. May 9, WDAM 7 Laurel – (Mississippi) Coal train derails in Covington County. Nearly two dozen coal cars from a Canadian National freight train derailed outside Collins, Mississippi, May 9. The accident involved a train headed south with a total of about 105 cars, all filled with coal. An undetermined amount of coal was spilled. Some rails and one small bridge were damaged. Authorities said the cause of the derailment was under investigation. Officials said it would take about 3 days to clean up the site and make repairs.

Source: http://www.wdam.com/story/18243147/coal-train-derails-in-covington-county

2. May 9, Associated Press – (Colorado) Colo. officials issue order against Lone Pine Gas. Colorado health officials issued a new cease-and-desist order to Lone Pine Gas Inc. May 8, alleging violations of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act. The company has oil and natural gas wells about 10 miles west of Walden in Jackson County. It has a permit to discharge treated produced water into Spring Gulch Creek, but the new cease-and-desist order said the company was discharging copper and iron at levels above what is allowed under its permit. The order warns of fines of up to \$10,000 per day for water-quality violations. Lone Pine Gas has 30 days to respond to the order. It received a similar notice of violation in 2010, also from the water quality control division of the State health department, ordering it to stop polluting the creek. The company was still allowed to operate while it worked to meet conditions of its discharge permit.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57430926/colo-officials-issue-order-against-lone-pine-gas/

For more stories, see items 16, 47, and 56

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. May 10, Baton Rouge Advocate – (Louisiana) Plant chemical release injures 3. A power failure at Westlake Chemical's Geismar complex in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, triggered a chemical release May 9 that sent three contract workers to a hospital. The workers were treated for inhalation injuries and released. The employees were pouring concrete when the incident occurred, said the director of Ascension Parish's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He said an undetermined amount of polyvinyl chloride was released. The cause of the power outage has not been determined, a Louisiana State Police spokesman said, but State police and HAZMAT teams were on site. Less than 2 hours after the incident, Westlake announced the vinyl chloride monomer unit at its Geismar complex, damaged by a fire

in late March, was safely repaired and restarted. Source: http://theadvocate.com/home/2794413-125/plant-chemical-release-injures-3

- 4. *May 10*, *Associated Press* (Louisiana) **Fiery flare from chemical plant cause accident.** State environmental regulators said fire and smoke flaring up at the Shell chemical plant in Norco, Louisiana, May 8, were the result of a heater unit failure that forced a shutdown of a portion of the plant. The eruption was visible from 25 miles away May 8. A Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) spokeswoman said fence line monitoring at ground level by Shell officials May 8 and additional monitoring May 9 by DEQ indicated no elevated levels of chemicals in the air. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported company officials said several chemicals, including benzene, ethylene, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxide, and propylene were released. However, a Shell Norco spokeswoman said there was no danger to the community. She said inclement weather caused the plant's mechanical problems. Source: http://www.katc.com/news/fiery-flare-from-chemical-plant-cause-accident/
- 5. May 9, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (National) EPA promotes safer alternatives to nonylphenol ethoxylates. May 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the final report on alternatives to nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) through the Design for the Environment (DfE) Alternatives Assessment Program. NPEs are widely used surfactants with a range of industrial applications and are commonly found in consumer products, such as laundry detergents. When released into the environment, they can be persistent and highly toxic to aquatic organisms. The report identifies eight safer alternatives to NPEs that meet EPA's criteria for safer surfactants. It provides information on the availability of safer alternatives, DfE's hazard evaluation method for surfactants, and the progress being made in adopting safer surfactants. Using rigorous hazard-based criteria, EPA evaluated hundreds of chemicals for their biodegradability and their potential effects to aquatic organisms. Source:

http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/837566f324a4bbbf852579f90069ba00?OpenDocument

For more stories, see items $\underline{2}$, $\underline{16}$, $\underline{20}$, and $\underline{27}$

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

6. *May 9*, *Freeport Journal-Standard* – (Illinois) **Galena foundry badly damaged in fire.** Firefighters spent about 7 hours battling a substantial fire at Westwick Foundry in Galena, Illinois, May 8. The building, which served as a metal casting factory, was

originally built in the mid-1800s and there have been sections added on over the decades. The fire started near the grinding room and spread quickly due to wooden patterns in the foundry's storage area. The section which caught fire was a complete loss according to the Galena fire chief, but the rest of the buildings in the complex were saved.

Source: http://www.journalstandard.com/news/x1266602039/Galena-foundry-badly-damaged-in-fire

7. *May 9, WDSU 6 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **2 sought In Larose shipyard copper theft.** Two men are being sought in connection with several burglaries at the Bollinger Shipyards in Larose, Louisiana, WDSU 6 New Orleans reported May 9. The thefts, which happened over the past few months, have all occurred at the Bollinger Shipyards. Detectives said the two men have taken an undetermined amount of copper wiring from the premises.

Source: http://www.wdsu.com/r/31036661/detail.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. May 9, San Jose Mercury News – (California) Silicon Valley engineer convicted in Marvell trade secrets case. A Silicon Valley engineer accused of stealing trade secrets from Marvell Technology was convicted of 5 felony charges in a case that has been unfolding in federal court in San Jose, California, for more than 6 years. In a decision made public May 8, a U.S. district judge convicted the man of five counts related to the trade secrets theft but cleared him of four other charges. The man is scheduled to be sentenced in August. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison. A grand jury indicted the man in 2005, charging him with exploiting his position as an engineer with Netgear, a Marvell customer, to gain access to Marvell's tech secrets. During trial, prosecutors alleged he downloaded a host of confidential materials from Marvell onto his laptop when he moved from Netgear to Marvell rival Broadcom in 2005. The man, prosecutors alleged in court papers, went on a "downloading spree of proprietary and trade secret materials from Marvell's Extranet that had no legitimate explanation." The collection of tech secrets was found on the man's computer when FBI agents raided his Belmont home in June 2005.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-mct-silicon-valley-engineer-convicted-in-marvell-trade-20120509,0,5183675.story

9. *May* 8, *Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Air Force probes cause of F-22 oxygen problems.** High-speed maneuvers at high altitudes may be the reason some pilots are experiencing oxygen deprivation while flying the F-22, a U.S. Air Force general said May 8, although she insisted 17 new safety measures made the jets safe to fly. The general told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee that recent data was helping the Air Force narrow down its hunt for the root cause of the issue, which prompted a grounding of the F-22, built by Lockheed Martin Corp, for more than 5 months in

2011. Her comments raised questions about whether the new F-35 fighter jets being developed by Lockheed could face similar issues.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/09/lockheed-fighters-idUSL1E8G8CHP20120509

For another story, see item <u>47</u>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. May 10, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot – (Virginia) Ex-VP of Bank of the Commonwealth admits to fraud. A former vice president at Virginia's Bank of the Commonwealth pleaded guilty May 9 to a fraud charge as part of the government's investigation of wrongdoing at the failed bank. The defendant served as the bank's commercial loan officer. He admitted participating in a \$5 million fraud involving loans to Tivest Development & Construction for two construction projects that ultimately failed. A vice president at Tivest faces a similar charge. Federal authorities are investigating the role that wrongdoing by top executives of Bank of the Commonwealth played in the bank's failure, according to court filings. The investigation also led to charges against two developers. Court records allege they obtained more than \$40 million in fraudulent loans from the bank for dozens of commercial and residential properties. The defendant's lawyer said his client did not benefit financially in the scheme. To keep his job, he did as the top executives instructed him to do in approving millions of dollars in questionable loans, the lawyer said. The bank closed in 2011 amid losses totaling more than \$260 million.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-mct-ex-vp-of-bank-of-the-commonwealth-admits-to-fraud-20120510,0,2096586.story

11. May 10, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission – (National; International) SEC charges Scotland-based firm for improperly boosting hedge fund client at expense of U.S. fund investors. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) May 10 charged a Scotland-based fund management group for fraudulently using one of its U.S. fund clients to rescue another client, a China-focused hedge fund struggling in the midst of the global financial crisis. Martin Currie agreed to pay about \$14 million to the SEC and the United Kingdom's Financial Services Authority to settle the charges it steered a U.S. publicly traded fund called The China Fund Inc. into an investment to bolster the hedge fund. Martin Currie directly alleviated the hedge fund's liquidity problems by deciding to use the China Fund in a bond transaction that reduced the hedge fund's exposure. In response to the hedge fund's problems, Martin Currie used the China Fund to purchase \$22.8 million in convertible bonds from a subsidiary of Jackin International, a Chinese company in which Martin Currie held \$10 million of unlisted illiquid bonds. The subsidiary instantly lent \$10 million of the proceeds to Jackin, which in turn redeemed \$10 million in otherwise-illiquid bonds held by the troubled hedge fund. The bond transaction closed in April 2009. According to the SEC's order, Martin Currie officials were aware the China Fund's involvement presented a direct conflict of interest. In April 2011, the China Fund sold its bond

investment in the Jackin subsidiary for a loss of \$11.5 million. Source: http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-90.htm

- 12. May 10, Associated Press (New Mexico) 400 fake credit cards seized at NM-Mexico border. Two Mexican nationals were arrested at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico port of entry after U.S. border officials said they tried to smuggle more than 400 counterfeit credit cards and gift cards into the United States, the Associated Press reported May 10. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized 422 counterfeit credit cards and gift cards and arrested two people from Chihuahua City, Mexico earlier the week of May 7. Officials said the seizure was made May 8 when a vehicle entered the port from Mexico. Federal officers found 1 person was carrying 411 fraudulent cards, with 11 additional counterfeit cards being carried by another person. Source: http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/ap/new-mexico/400-fake-credit-cards-seized-at-nm-mexico-border/nN2Lj/
- 13. May 9, WBRZ 2 Baton Rouge (Louisiana; Mississippi) Suspect connected to multiple bank robberies. Detectives with the Baton Rouge Police and the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office (EBRSO) in Louisiana have arrested a man in connection with a string of bank robberies around the area, WBRZ 2 Baton Rouge reported May 9. Authorities arrested the suspect in suspicion of 3 bank robberies and a bank burglary, all committed over the past 3 months. An EBRSO spokesperson said deputies pulled the suspect's vehicle over and saw strands of a red wig inside. Surveillance video from one of the bank robberies showed the robber wearing a red wig. Detectives linked the suspect to bank robberies March 21, April 29 and 30, and May 7. They also linked him to an attempted bank robbery April 27. The spokesperson said the suspect is also on parole for robbery in Jackson, Mississippi.

Source: http://www1.wbrz.com/news/suspect-connected-to-multiple-bank-robberies/

14. May 9, Federal Bureau of Investigation – (Oregon) Former Key Bank branch manager guilty of identity theft, bank fraud. A former manager of a Key Bank branch in Springfield, Oregon, pleaded guilty to identity theft and bank fraud in federal court May 9. He admitted that in January 2007, while serving as a bank manager and with the intent to deceive Key Bank, he used a Social Security number of a previous Key Bank account holder to open up a bank account at Key Bank without their authorization. He also admitted that in May 2007, he transferred the names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers of 2,937 present or previous account holders of Key Bank to his personal e-mail account. He admitted he transferred this data without authorization, intending to use it for his personal financial gain. As a result of his conduct, Key Bank incurred \$44,937.66 in expenses, including credit monitoring services to affected account holders. The defendant agreed to pay restitution in that amount to Key Bank.

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \underline{\text{http://www.loansafe.org/former-key-bank-branch-manager-guilty-of-identity-theft-bank-fraud} \\$

15. *May 9, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Canada busts international bank card fraud ring.** Canadian police said May 9 they broke up an international fraud ring that drained some \$100 million from the accounts of unsuspecting bank card holders.

Authorities arrested 45 people in a series of raids by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, mostly in the Montreal, Quebec region, but also in Ottawa, Ontario, and Vancouver, British Columbia, a police spokesperson said. Arrests warrants were issued for 61 people, all but one of whom were Canadian citizens, according to police. Authorities said the network was active in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Tunisia. The fraudsters divided their labors among various members, with some specializing in filming and modifying ATM machines. Other units of the crime ring specialized in stealing PIN numbers or hacking into computer terminals in stores, while other cells forged counterfeit cards for illegal withdrawals. In some cases, they modified point-of-sale machines from businesses and restaurants, rigging them using Bluetooth technology to read the credit and debit card information contained on the computer processors of the devices. They then transferred the information onto blank debit and credit cards, which they later tapped to drain the rightful bank customers' bank accounts. The suspects face charges of racketeering, fraud, making counterfeit cards, and identify theft.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jbyx7K5uA9ZIIMM9RFN_2 rUSazQ?docId=CNG.913d166f7f05807c7ead3a2fceba444b.151

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Transportation Sector

16. May 10, Trucking Info – (National) Safety Board highlights dangers of hosechemical incompatibility. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) asked the Department of Transportation to warn trucking companies about the dangers of not using the right hoses for the right chemicals, after determining the use of a cargo hose assembly that was not chemically compatible with anhydrous ammonia caused a fatal 2009 accident, Trucking Info reported May 10. A cargo transfer hose ruptured July 15, 2009, shortly after transfer of anhydrous ammonia began from a Werner Transportation cargo tank truck to a storage tank at the Tanner Industries facility in Swansea, South Carolina. NTSB investigators determined the probable cause of the accident was Werner's use of a cargo hose assembly designed for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) transfer only and was not chemically compatible with anhydrous ammonia. As a result of the investigation, the NTSB issued a joint recommendation to the DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to "jointly issue a safety advisory bulletin to inform cargo tank motor vehicle owners and operators, registered inspectors of these vehicles, and transfer facility operators about the circumstances of this accident and actions needed to prevent the occurrence of a similar accident."

Source: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=76892

17. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **3-truck crash blocks bridge on major Ohio highway.** State troopers said three tractor-trailers collided and significantly damaged a highway overpass in eastern Ohio, blocking westbound traffic near the intersection of

two busy interstates, the Associated Press reported May 9. The collision happened May 7 on Interstate 70 near Cambridge, just west of where the highway links to Interstate 77. The crash significantly damaged the concrete sides of the bridge. Officials rerouted traffic north around the I-70 bridge before reopening one of its two lanes during morning rush hour May 8.

Source: http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20120509/NEWS01/205090330

18. *May 9, KESQ 3 Palm Springs* – (California) **Palm Springs streets reopened after bomb scare.** South Civic Center Drive was shut down for 3 hours May 9 as a HAZMAT team detonated a device resembling a pipe bomb on the front lawn of the Palm Springs Police Department in California, May 9. A police spokesman said someone found the device near the Palm Springs Country Club. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team will help determine if the device was active and where it came from.

Source: http://www.kesq.com/news/Palm-Springs-street-shut-down-for-bomb-squad/-/233092/13004142/-/r45ner/-/

For more stories, see items 1 and 21

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Postal and Shipping Sector

See items 40 and 52

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. May 10, Food Safety News – (National; International) More frozen tuna from India recalled due to Salmonella risk. The company in India that supplied the yellowfin tuna implicated in the multistate outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to sushi recalled 22-pound cases of frozen tuna strips because they may also be contaminated with Salmonella. In a news release May 9, Moon Fishery said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) isolated Salmonella in a sample of tuna strips that had not yet been distributed. As a cautionary measure, it agreed to recall frozen tuna strips that had already been shipped, although it said none of those shipments "is from the suspect lot sampled by the FDA." The recalled tuna strips were shipped to four wholesalers in Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Moon India said distribution of its tuna was suspended while the FDA continued its investigation. As of May 2, 258 people infected with Salmonella Bareilly or Salmonella Nichanga were reported from 24 states and Washington, D.C., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC said frozen yellowfin tuna, called Nakaochi Scrape, imported from India was the likely source. Many of those sickened reported eating sushi — in particular "spicy tuna sushi" — in the week before they became ill. Moon Marine USA Corp. of Cupertino, California, recalled 58,828 pounds of Nakaochi Scrape.

Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/05/tuna-strips-from-india-recalled-due-to-salmonella-risk/

20. *May 10, Nashville Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Ammonia leak at Lebanon food distributor prompts evacuation.** An ammonia leak at a food distributor in Lebanon, Tennessee, May 10 required about 30 night shift employees to be evacuated for several hours. Crews responded to the leak at Performance Food Group distribution center, the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency director said. The leak did not elevate to dangerous levels. Employees were allowed to return about 3 hours after they were evacuated.

Source: http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120510/NEWS/305100031/Ammonia-leak-Lebanon-food-distributor-prompts-evacuation

21. *May 9, Carlisle Sentinel* – (Pennsylvania) **Second trailer loaded with beer stolen in Carlisle.** A second trailer loaded with beer was noticed stolen in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, May 7. Carlisle police said a trailer was found stolen from Allen Distribution. The trailer was reportedly loaded with 1,800 cases of Corona beer and was taken between May 4-7. A second trailer was noticed stolen at the same time and was taken from the same lot. That trailer was also loaded with Corona, with a total of 1,350 cases.

Source: http://cumberlink.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/second-trailer-loaded-with-beer-stolen-in-carlisle/article_c16a2f64-99d2-11e1-9c2e-0019bb2963f4.html

- 22. *May 9, Brazil Times* (Indiana) **Late freeze damages state's winter wheat crop.** A late-April freeze damaged some of northern Indiana's early progressing winter wheat crop, leaving growers to decide whether to let the crop yield or tear it up altogether, the Brazil Times reported May 9. While most of the crop survived near-freezing nighttime temperatures in April, it was the last freeze of the month that occurred while wheat was close to heading that caused the most damage. The most severe freeze damage to wheat comes when the crop is in growth stages between boot and flowering. The crop was in the boot to heading stages when the last freeze hit prime time for problems. Source: http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1847260.html
- 23. May 8, Riverside Press-Enterprise (California) Avocado-killing pest identified at UCR. A University of California, Riverside researcher identified an Asian beetle that damaged avocado trees in the Los Angeles area, the Riverside Press-Enterprise reported May 8. The plant pathologist determined the beetle, called the tea shot hole borer, and the fungus it carries, fusarium, were the same ones that damaged commercial avocado groves in Israel. It was unclear how widespread the infestation was or how big a threat it might pose to California growers, he said. There is no known treatment for either the beetle or the fungus. Avocados are grown commercially in the hills near Temecula and in San Diego County. In 2010, Riverside County's crop was valued at \$24 million. San Bernardino County growers raised about \$1 million worth in 2010. An official with West Pak Avocado Inc. in Temecula said it is not possible to assess the threat yet. "It's not like wiping out the avocado," the plant pathologist said. "But it's causing severe damage."

Source: http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/riverside/riverside-headlines-index/20120508-riverside-avocado-killing-pest-identified-at-ucr.ece

For another story, see item <u>5</u>

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Water Sector

24. *May 10*, *Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Chesapeake to pay state fine for 2 spills of partially treated drinking water.** Chesapeake, Virginia, will pay more than \$7,700 in environmental fines for 2 spills of partially treated drinking water from a treatment plant, the Associated Press reported May 10. The city agreed to pay the fines under a proposed settlement with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The water resources administrator said the water spills did not involve chemicals or other pollutants, but they were a violation of the city's permit. The spills occurred in April and July 2010. An unknown amount of partially treated water reached the Elizabeth River.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f78aac328e634812bf45a0f3f41236dd/VA--Water-Spill-Fine/

25. *May 10, WSAU 550 AM Wausau* – (Wisconsin) **Heavy rains cause sewage**overflows. Eighteen communities in east central Wisconsin reported sewage overflows or related problems as the result of heavy rains between May 3 and May 6. In Ripon, officials said more than 2 million gallons of partially treated wastewater were spilled into Silver Creek May 3. The city told the State department of natural resources it was trying to prevent flooding at its sewage treatment plant due to heavy flows. In Denmark, near Green Bay, about 150,000 gallons of partially treated sewage was pumped into Denmark Creek during 3 hours of overflows. The community had 1.8 inches of rain the previous 24 hours. Kewaunee said 150,000 gallons of sewage flowed into the Kewaunee River to prevent basement backups. Berlin reported 2 sanitary sewer overflows on a day when it recorded more than 4 inches of rain. Parts of east central Wisconsin had 4-and-a-half inches of rain May 3. Fond du Lac said it had one overflow incident May 6 when another big thunderstorm hit.

Source: http://wtaq.com/news/articles/2012/may/10/heavy-rains-cause-sewage-overflows/

26. May 10, MLive.com – (Michigan) Massive water leak, theft contribute to Flint water rate increases, officials say. For more than a year, a massive break in a Flint, Michigan water main leaked millions of gallons of water underground before workers were able to detect and fix it, officials said May 10. Flint leaders estimated the recently repaired break cost more than \$800,000 in lost water, not including the cost of repairs. In addition, the city estimated that more than 30 percent of the water it buys from Detroit is never billed for by Flint. Leaks, stolen water, and water to fight the city's high rate of structure fires are all included in the unmetered category. Flint's development and infrastructure director said there is no way to quantify how much

unmetered water is stolen, but he said his office has received numerous photos of cut meters as well as allegations of residents bypassing water meters or businesses stealing from hydrants. City officials list the water losses as one of many contributors to the 25 percent water and sewer rate increase that has angered Flint residents. The rate increase is expected to go into effect in June and follows two double-digit rate hikes in 2011. The cause of the massive water main break was still being investigated.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/05/flint officials water leakage.html

27. May 9, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – (California) EPA adds South Gate Industrial Facilities to list of nation's worst toxic sites. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added two new sites, the Southern Avenue Industrial Area site and Jervis B. Webb Co., to the Superfund National Priorities List in Los Angeles County, the EPA reported May 9. Both are former industrial facilities located in South Gate. In 2011, EPA proposed to add both sites to the list due to soil and groundwater contamination. Volatile organic compounds, including elevated levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) were confirmed in the soils and groundwater at the sites. About 1 million people are severely impacted by industrial activities and goods movement in the area. TCE contamination in the groundwater at Southern Avenue Industrial Area and Jervis B. Webb Co. was found at levels up to 17,000 parts per billion (ppb) and 35,000 ppb, respectively. The federal Maximum Contaminant Level for TCE in drinking water is 5 ppb. Although the drinking water supply wells immediately downgradient of the sites are located in a deeper aquifer and are not currently contaminated, because the aquifers are connected, there is the potential that drinking water wells may become contaminated. There are at least 35 drinking water wells within 4 miles of the site, serving about 226,000 people.

 $\frac{http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/610f1f}{3359d23fb5852579f9005e1778!OpenDocument}$

For more stories, see items 2, 47, and 56

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *May 10*, *Associated Press* – (National) **Report: Suspect billings at 2,600 drugstores.** May 10, the Associated Press reported that Medicare paid \$5.6 billion to 2,600 pharmacies with questionable billings, including a Kansas drugstore that submitted more than 1,000 prescriptions each for 2 patients in just 1 year, government investigators found. A new report by the inspector general of the Health and Human Services department found the corner drugstore vulnerable to fraud, partly because Medicare does not require the private insurers that deliver prescription benefits to seniors to report suspicious billing patterns. The analysis broke new ground by scrutinizing every claim submitted by the nation's 59,000 retail pharmacies during 2009 — more than 1 billion prescriptions. Investigators were able to reveal contrasts between normal business practices and potential criminal behavior. "The findings call

for a strong response to improve (program) oversight," the report said. In written comments, a Medicare administrator said the agency mostly agrees with the inspector general's call to action.

Source: http://www.ktvn.com/story/18249095/apnewsbreak-suspect-billings-at-2600-drugstores

29. May 10, Los Angeles City News Service – (California) Northridge woman among 70 arrested in 'pill mill' raid. Nearly 70 people, including physicians, were detained after local, State, and federal investigators raided a Los Angeles clinic suspected of selling prescriptions for the addictive painkiller Oxycodone, authorities said May 10. The raid on the Roscoe Van Nuys Medical Clinic was carried out by the Health Authority Law Enforcement Taskforce and involved personnel from the sheriff's department, the California Department of Justice, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and Department of Health and Human Services, an official from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Major Crimes Bureau said. Patients and employees were detained and two of the patients were arrested for outstanding warrants during the raid. The clinic's manager was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a felony and conspiracy to furnish unlawful pharmaceuticals after authorities served a warrant at her home. The clinic, which authorities describe as a "pill mill" where addicts and dealers pay hundreds of dollars for prescriptions without being examined by a doctor, was searched and shut down in 2011, but it reopened with different doctors and was again operating illegally.

Source: http://northridge.patch.com/articles/northridge-woman-among-70-arrested-in-pill-mill-raids

- 30. May 9, WMTW 8 Poland Spring (Maine) Patient records found in VA waste bin. "Simple human error" led an employee of the Maine Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Togus to toss the medical records of a "small number" of patients into an office trash can instead of a recycling bin designated for shredding. The associate director of the Togus facility said May 8 that the mistake was discovered April 11 when an employee found the documents in an office trash can. The employee contacted a supervisor, who then sequestered the medical center's trash truck that takes items to the landfill. The trash truck was driven to the landfill, emptied, and employees sorted through the truck's contents to make sure no other records were there. The search turned up no additional records, and the documents found in the office waste bin were shredded as is standard practice to protect patient privacy.

 Source: http://www.wmtw.com/news/maine/central/Patient-records-found-in-VA-
 - Source: http://www.wmtw.com/news/maine/central/Patient-records-found-in-VA-waste-bin/-/8791976/12835746/-/5pyk94/-/
- 31. *May 9*, *Windsor Locks-East Windsor Patch* (Connecticut) **Man charged with** starting fire at East Windsor health care facility. A man was charged with arson after starting a fire May 8 that caused Kettle Brook Care Center in East Windsor, Connecticut, to be evacuated while fire departments put out the fire. Police and fire investigators determined the fire was started by igniting a cardboard box full of clothes. The man stated he started the fire because he did not like being there, police said. The fire was put out quickly because of a sprinkler system, but the south wing of the third floor suffered smoke damage and 22 residents were evacuated from the floor. Because

of water damage, 24 residents from the second floor also had to be evacuated. Emergency personnel spent about 4 hours on the scene moving residents around after the fire. Six rooms were damaged and deemed uninhabitable.

Source: http://windsorlocks.patch.com/articles/man-charged-with-starting-fire-at-east-windsor-health-care-facility

For another story, see item <u>34</u>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *May 10, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Personal information on North Carolina Charlotte students and faculty exposed.** The University of North Carolina Charlotte said bank account numbers and Social Security numbers of more than 350,000 students and faculty were accidentally exposed in a computer security breach. The university released results of a study May 9 after the breach was discovered by staff members in February. The university said part of the problem was improper access settings that made the electronic data accessible on the Internet. The information from the school's general system was exposed for about 3 months, and information from the engineering college was exposed for more than 10 years. State and federal officials continued to investigate how the breach occurred.

Source:

 $\underline{http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3eb77ef4ab304284984b1b9b23226eb7/NC-\underline{UNCC-Data-Exposed/}}$

- 33. May 9, Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas) Richland Hills second-grader brings loaded pistol to school. A second-grader who brought a loaded .22-caliber handgun to Richland Elementary School in Richland Hills, Texas, May 9 was caught when he dropped the gun on the floor of a classroom, officials said. "Other students saw the handgun and reported the gun to the teacher," police said in a news release. "The teacher then took the gun and student to the office where police were called." The student told officers the gun belonged to his mother's boyfriend, and he took it the night before. The student said he did not know why he brought the gun to school, according to the news release. Richland Hills police may pursue charges against the mother and the boyfriend for allowing the child to have access to the gun. The gun was found at "the end of the day," said a Birdville school district spokesman. Source: http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/05/09/3949347/richland-hills-second-grader-brings.html
- 34. *May 9, Greeley Tribune* (Colorado) **Whooping cough outbreak: Seven confirmed cases at University middle school.** The number of confirmed cases of whooping cough at University middle school in Greeley, Colorado, climbed to seven, including one teacher, leading school officials to ban all students who are not immunized from the building, the Greeley Tribune reported May 9. The school nurse said the number of confirmed cases continues to rise, and health department officials made several recommendations to the school to get the outbreak of the pertussis infection under

control. "The school sent home three letters Wednesday to different groups of students based on Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment's findings," said University Schools' director. One letter went to the parents of middle school athletes on the track team, which is where the health department believes the cases originated. Source:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20120509/NEWS/705099959/1007\&parentprofile=1025}}$

- 35. *May 9*, *CBS News* (Missouri) **U.S. Senator gets security boost after threat.** A U.S. Senator from Missouri will receive increased security protection following a recent threat to her safety, the St. Louis County prosecuting attorney confirmed to CBS News May 9. The Senator was threatened by an activist at a rally event the week of April 30, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The county prosecuting attorney said the Kirkwood Police Department enacted "enhanced" security in the area where the Senator lives. The incident prompted the U.S. Capitol Police to contact the Kirkwood Police Department and the Senator's office, which led to the increased measures. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-57430931-503544/mccaskill-gets-security-boost-after-threat/
- 36. May 9, Miami Herald (North Carolina; International) North Miami Marine arrested on tax-related fraud charges. A U.S. Marine from north Miami was arrested May 8 on charges of selling the stolen identities of dozens of fellow soldiers in Afghanistan to a Broward County, Florida woman recently convicted of filing false income-tax returns in their names. The man was arrested at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina by agents for the FBI and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Based at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan, the Marine used his mobile device to send text messages and e-mails to the woman with the names of other Marines in December 2011 and January, according to a criminal complaint. When NCIS agents searched his quarters at Camp Leatherneck, they seized a list containing the names and Social Security numbers of 44 U.S. Marines, according to the criminal complaint. Of those, 21 were on lists found by FBI agents in the woman's residence when they arrested her in February. Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/05/08/2789799/a-north-miami-marine-arrested.html

For another story, see item 52

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *May 10, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Sheriff: Roane firefighter admits nine arson fires.** A longtime member of Knoxville, Tennessee's South Roane County Volunteer Fire Department confessed to starting a fire in the bedroom of the duplex he rented and to eight other arsons since 2010, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported May 10. At one time an assistant chief with the fire department, he was booted from the squad and faces potential criminal charges. All of the arsons occurred within the 100-square-mile area served by the volunteer fire department, and he either responded as a

firefighter or was nearby each time. Evidence of arson was found at the duplex fire, and the sheriff's office and an insurance investigator interviewed the former assistant chief and "found him to be responsible for the fire," said a news release from the sheriff's office.

Source: http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/may/10/sheriff-roane-firefighter-admits-nine-arson/

38. *May 10*, *Buffalo News* – (New York) **New 911 system to aid speed.** The Buffalo News reported May 10 a new 9-1-1 system that is being rolled out in Erie County, New York, over the next 12 months will speed the transfer of emergency cell phone calls to a local police or fire department. And for the first time, dispatchers at local emergency call centers outside the county's call center in Buffalo will see a map that can pinpoint the location of wireless callers as they move. Officials hoped that would mean officers and emergency responders throughout the county would get information more quickly as they respond to emergencies such as a heart attack or car crash. The \$8 million project has been in the works for 3 years and will be paid for primarily through Homeland Security grants.

Source: http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/erie-county/article850086.ece

- 39. *May 9, WMTW 8 Poland Spring* (Maine) **York County radio jamming stops.** The person responsible for jamming emergency radio transmissions in Maine's York County has apparently stopped, WMTW 8 Poland Spring reported May 9. The assistant chief of Lebanon's rescue department said the last interruption occurred April 22 when his transmissions were blocked as he responded to an emergency, delaying ambulance response. He said he immediately contacted the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to try to track the source of the disruptions. The FCC said it has zero tolerance to emergency band jamming, which is against federal law and can draw steep fines. The assistant chief told the Portland Press Herald the jamming "stopped immediately." Transmissions were also jammed in North Berwick, Acton, Shapleigh, and Limerick in the past several months. The jamming was still under investigation.

 Source: http://www.wmtw.com/news/maine/York-County-radio-jamming-stops/-/8792012/12944322/-/tn92ulz/-/
- 40. *May 9*, *WJBK 2 Detroit* (Michigan) **Detroit police officer finds powder in envelope.** May 9, an officer in Detroit's Schaefer police station opened an envelope sent through the U.S. Post Office and came into contact with a cloud of smoke. Police described the substance as a fine granulated powder. The station was immediately shut down. Detroit police and fire, as well as Homeland Security, set a perimeter and transported prisoners while three people were quarantined inside. Two police officers and one civilian were exposed to the powdery substance. Police said it was not a chemical weapon, so there were no immediate signs of irritation to the skin, eyes, or mouth, but it could not immediately be ruled out as a biological toxin.

 Source: http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/detroit-police-officer-finds-powder-in-envelope-20120509-ms
- 41. *May 9, Redding Record-Searchlight* (California) **Sewage problems close services at Redding Police Department.** Services like fingerprinting and property release

information were unavailable May 9 at the Redding, California Police Department due to a sewage problem at police headquarters, the agency announced. For the fourth time in the past 18 months, sewage has backed up at the department, flooding parts of the aging structure. The Redding police captain said plumbers are trying to figure out whether the sewage backup is due to a clogged line or whether the line broke. Areas where officers process evidence and test narcotics have had to be cleared out because of effluent contamination on the floor.

Source: http://www.redding.com/news/2012/may/09/sewage-problems-close-services-redding-police-depa/?partner=popular

42. *May 7, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* – (California) **Driver hospitalized after crashing into parked firetruck in Rialto.** A driver was injured May 7 when she hit a parked fire truck that was tending to a traffic collision in San Bernardino County, California. County firefighters were on scene of a two-vehicle traffic collision that was blocking 2 lanes of freeway in Rialto. The fire engine had its lights activated and was parked at an angle at the rear of the collision to block the vehicles from oncoming traffic. An unidentified female driver hit the right rear of the fire engine. Her vehicle became lodged under the engine and firefighters had to use the Jaws of Life to free her. She was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. "In this incident, it's a good thing we were parked where we were at," a San Bernardino County Fire Department public information officer said. "That most likely saved the other people from being struck." This crash is the second incident in less than a month where a driver has struck a fire engine already on scene of a collision, she said.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_20567197/driver-hospitalized-after-crashing-into-parked-firetruck-rialto}$

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Information Technology Sector

43. *May 10, IDG News Service* – (International) **Twitter blog post says company leaked no user data.** None of the recently leaked Twitter logins and passwords came from within the company, according to a message posted on Twitter's Japanese blog May 10. "We have confirmed that no one's information has been leaked from Twitter," the blog said, after apologizing to users for their concerns. The comments came after 58,978 login and password combinations were published May 7 to Pastebin, a Web site designed to share programming code but often used by hackers to show off stolen data. The company already said much of the account information posted was duplicates, unmatched log-in credentials, and spam accounts. In its Japanese blog posting, Twitter said account data was likely leaked from a different site, and it sent password reset requests to users on the list. It also warned users to avoid "fishing" Web sites, which try to con log-in information out of unwary users, and to use strong passwords that are unique for separate sites.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9227040/Twitter_blog_post_says_company_leaked_no_user_data

44. May 10, H Security – (International) Apple closes numerous holes in Mac OS X and **Safari.** With the 10.7.4 Mac OS X Lion update and security update 2012-002 for 10.6, Apple closed numerous critical vulnerabilities in Mac OS X and its components. The most prominent fix in this update stops Lion from storing plain text passwords. Due to a mistake in the previous update, Lion stored the passwords of users who mounted their home/user directory from a network volume in the system log unencrypted and readable by anyone with administrative or physical access. Those who continued to use the first version of the FileVault encryption after upgrading from Snow Leopard to Lion were also affected. Further vulnerabilities were fixed in components such as the LoginUIFramework, where a race condition allowed guest users of Lion to log in as another user without having to enter a password. Apple also closed a hole in the HFS filesystem that allowed Lion systems to be infected with malicious code by mounting a specially crafted disk image. Curl is now protected against problems such as the "BEAST" attacks on encrypted connections. One fix, specifically for Mac OS X 10.6, Snow Leopard, is for the Samba server which, if active, allowed remote attackers to inject malicious code into a system without providing any valid access credentials. The Samba server is not a user in Mac OS X 10.7. Apple also released a security update for its Safari browser for Mac OS X and Windows.

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Apple-closes-numerous-holes-in-Mac-OS-X-and-Safari-1572174.html

45. May 10, H Security – (International) Critical vulnerability in vBSEO patched. The developers of the vBSEO extension to the vBulletin forum software closed a critical vulnerability in their plugin. The vBSEO plugin adds search engine optimization (SEO) functionality to the vBulletin core code. The vulnerability — a SQL injection flaw that allows attackers to execute commands and manipulate the contents of the forum's database — comes only a short time after the developers patched another flaw, which was recently misused to attack online forums en masse. Affected users can download the patched versions of 3.3.x, 3.5.x, and 3.6.0 from the download area of the vBSEO Web site. The vBSEO forum also provides instructions on how to close the security hole manually. Since an exploit was already found in the wild, users should update their installations immediately.

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Critical-vulnerability-in-vBSEO-patched-1572141.html

46. *May 9, Infosecurity* – (International) **Research uncovers IRC bot malware for Android.** McAfee Labs researchers discovered Android malware that acts as an Internet relay channel (IRC) bot. The Android malware, which masquerades as the Madden NFL 2012 video game, has three embedded modules that perform various malicious activities, explained a researcher with McAfee Labs. The main component is a dropper that installs a set of other components — a rooting exploit, IRC bot, and SMS trojan — onto the compromised Android device. The researcher warned that if the user of a compromised Android device receives a message from his/her bank using a two-way authentication code, that message along with the mobile number is sent to the remote attacker, who can use it to compromise bank transactions.

Source: http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/25673/research-uncovers-irc-bot-malware-for-android/

47. *May 9, Network World* – (National) **Security of industrial control systems questioned at DHS conference.** Operators of America's power, water, and manufacturing facilities use industrial control systems (ICS) to manage them. However, the security of these systems, increasingly linked with Microsoft Windows and the Internet, is now under intense scrutiny because of growing awareness that they could be attacked and cause massive disruptions. Industrial facility operators are making efforts to follow security procedures, such as using vulnerability-assessment scanning tools to check for needed patches in Windows. However, ICS environments present special problems, said managers who spoke on the topic at a conference organized by the DHS. Currently, energy and manufacturing facilities are being openly warned by DHS and its Industrial Control Systems Computer Emergency Response Team that they are being targeted by attackers who will often try to infiltrate business networks, often through spear phishing attacks against employees, in order to also gain information about ICS operations.

Source: http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=F6A00A23-93CE-4ADC-E9CC5545017384EC

48. May 9, National Journal – (International) ICANN sets target date for re-opening database. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the group that runs the Internet's address system said it is aiming to re-open the application process for those seeking to launch a new domain name by May 22. If it meets this goal, ICANN said the application process would remain open for 5 business days, not counting Memorial Day, and would close May 30. ICANN shut down its application database in April after discovering a glitch that exposed some information about applicants. The group denied its system was hit by a cyberattack. ICANN said it took the database offline to find out what caused the problem and to ensure it would not happen again. The week of April 30, ICANN said that of the 1,268 registered users and 95,000 file attachments in the applications system, about 455 might have been viewed by another applicant. An ICANN spokesman said the group is trying to review all the relevant data before re-opening the application process. It launched its program in January allowing for the introduction of almost any new top-level domain name to compete with the 22 existing generic domain names. The application process for the program was originally scheduled to close April 12. ICANN eventually suspended the application process after discovering the database problem.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/big-data/2012/05/icann-sets-target-date-re-opening-database/55651/?oref=ng-dropdown

For more stories, see items 15 and 32

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at $\underline{sos@us-cert.gov}$ or visit their Web site: $\underline{http://www.us-cert.gov}$

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: https://www.it-isac.org

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Communications Sector

See items <u>39</u>, <u>43</u>, <u>46</u>, and <u>48</u>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

- 49. *May 10, Detroit Observer and Eccentric* (Michigan) **Bed bug treatment forces evacuation of apartments.** Residents of an apartment building in Garden City,
 Michigan, were evacuated and the Wayne County HAZMAT team called out after
 several people experienced reactions to chemicals used by an exterminator hired by a
 tenant to treat a bed bug problem, the Detroit Observer and Eccentric reported May 10.
 According to the Garden City fire chief, tenants were not told about the extermination
 and the tenant who had been told by the exterminator not to open the door to the
 apartment for 3 hours, opened it after only 30-45 minutes. A mail carrier in the building
 experienced queasiness and trouble breathing, and a woman from the building
 experienced a more severe reaction that included vomiting, and was taken to a hospital.
 Source: http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20120510/NEWS24/205100583/Bed-bug-treatment-forces-evacuation-apartments?odyssey=nav|head
- 50. *May 9, Montana Standard* (Montana) **Two vehicles set on fire at Butte dealership.** Vehicles at a Butte, Montana dealership were set on fire May 9. Two
 vehicles were set on fire and a third fire was attempted on another vehicle in the rear lot
 of Brooks Hanna Ford. Butte police and firefighters responded to the scene after
 receiving a 9-1-1 call. Windows were broken out of the vehicles and some type of
 accelerant was used to start the fires inside the cars, according to police.
 Source: http://mtstandard.com/news/local/two-vehicles-set-on-fire-at-butte-dealership/article_88b892ca-99f8-11e1-8c8e-001a4bcf887a.html#ixzz1uTGo0ym6
- 51. May 9, Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) Super 8 motel in Dunbar shutting down for meth contamination. The Super 8 motel in Dunbar, West Virginia, shut down temporarily while crews checked for methamphetamine contamination, the Charleston Gazette reported May 9. The State program coordinator for the Clandestine Drug Laboratory Rehabilitation Program said a meth lab was discovered at the motel several weeks ago and motel staff asked to have adjoining rooms tested for meth contamination. Tests showed additional contamination, so the rest of the motel was being tested as a precaution. The program coordinator said the motel should reopen in about a week.

Source: http://wvgazette.com/News/201205090133

52. *May 9, KTVT 11 Fort Worth* – (Texas) **FBI takes lead in white powder investigation after 9th found.** May 9, the FBI took lead of the investigation into 9 white powder scares in 2 days in north Texas cities. The latest suspicious package was found at the Mi Escuelita Preschool in Dallas. This marks the seventh Headstart school in 2 days

targeted with envelopes containing a "white powdery" substance. An employee of the Mi Escuelita Headstart school opened the mail May 9 when she noticed a white substance spill out of one of the envelopes. Employees said the envelope did not have a return address. Dallas police secured the scene while Plano's HAZMAT team was called in to handle the envelope. Officials evacuated the building where the envelope was opened, including a classroom with 18 children. Schools in Mesquite, Garland, and Irving received similar suspicious mailings. Two other locations, including a church, also received envelopes. All of them were determined to be non-hazardous. Source: http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2012/05/09/fbi-takes-lead-in-white-powder-investigation-after-9th-found/

For more stories, see items <u>37</u> and <u>53</u>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

- 53. May 8, KGUN 9 Tucson (Arizona) Wildfire burning near Parker Canyon
 Lake. The School Canyon Fire near Parker Canyon, Arizona, rushed to 7,700 acres by
 May 8 1,200 acres in the United States, the rest on the Mexican side of the border.
 The U.S. Forest Service rushed to attack the fire with aircraft and firefighters on the
 ground. Two large helicopters were involved in the response, along with four heavy air
 tankers, two small air tankers, and two planes to help guide and coordinate the drops.
 By May 9, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office said the fire was 75 percent contained
 and crews were working on hot spots and mop up. The Parker Canyon Lake
 campground was evacuated as a precaution, but no structures were damaged. It is now
 a base camp for the firefighters. Investigators said the fire was human-caused.
 Source: http://www.kgun9.com/news/local/150725565.html?hpt=us bn7
- 54. *May 8, Associated Press* (Arizona) **State, feds impose fire bans in So. Arizona.** State and federal land managers imposed bans on open fires and other activities across much of southeastern Arizona because of high fire danger. Orders from the federal Bureau of Land Management and the Arizona State forester took effect May 7. They ban fires outside developed campgrounds, smoking outside a building or vehicle, welding, and off-road driving. The orders cover BLM-managed federal lands in Pima, Pinal, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham, Greenlee, Apache, and Navajo counties, and parts of Gila County. A severe fire season in the southwestern United States was predicted because of an ongoing drought. Exceptionally hot and dry weather has already led to numerous wildfires in southeastern Arizona. The largest consumed more than 1,000 acres.

Source:

http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2012/05/08/maricopa_monitor/county_state/doc4fa95d170d4c8030937555.txt

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Dams Sector

- 55. May 10, Times of Northwest Indiana (Indiana) Work on Little Cal levee system continues. The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission focused on maintenance and getting the final phases of a flood protection project near Gary, Indiana, completed at a meeting May 9. Pumps and gauges along the Little Calumet River are working properly and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said trees within 15 feet of the levee system have been removed. Crews planned to establish turf from the Northcote Bridge to Columbia Avenue in Munster, May 10. An earlier inspection by the Corps found a portion of the berm from Northcote to Columbia Avenue is too wide, so crews planned to make reductions. The executive director told the commission they were working with officials from Lake Station and Hobart as part of the panel's commitment to examine flooding issues in the entire Lake County watershed. The commission authorized the director to request bids for large repair projects in Gary where a portion of the levee system is now considered deficient.

 Source: http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/work-on-little-cal-levee-system-continues/article-5a7cc5a6-7fe2-5825-8d58-663e7d161025.html
- 56. May 10, Nashville Tennessean (Tennessee; Kentucky) Priest Lake levels dip to lowest ever for spring. The warm, dry spring has taken its toll on the Cumberland River Basin in Tennessee. J. Percy Priest Lake was 3.7 feet below normal, its lowest level ever for this time of year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported, and Lake Barkley in Kentucky was 2.8 feet below normal, the Nashville Tennessean reported May 10. The low lake levels mean less water flows downstream into the Cumberland River, which could cause problems for power generation, water treatment, and river navigation, experts said. It also could harm fish and means boaters during the summer of 2012 should be on the lookout for hazards. The low levels at J. Percy Priest Lake stopped power generation at the dam, said the Corps' chief of hydrology and hydraulics in Nashville. The Corps reduced the flow of water out of the lake to a minimum, about 20 cubic feet of water per second. The Nashville area has had 14.3 inches of rain in 2012, more than 3 inches below normal. Less water means water temperatures rise more quickly, reducing oxygen levels and making the environment more harsh for fish and other wildlife. The higher temperatures also mean more treatment is needed before the water becomes drinkable. For instance, more severe drought conditions in 2007 and 2008 resulted in interruptions to water service along with odor problems at water treatment facilities.

Source: http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120510/NEWS01/305100049/Priest-Lake-levels-dip-lowest-ever-spring?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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